

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims as shown below in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A process for producing L-threonine comprising:

- a) culturing an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-threonine; and
- b) isolating said L-threonine as a product;

wherein the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium ~~has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and~~ has undergone a ~~modification~~ inactivation by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of: deletion of all or part of the *yjgF* open reading frame; insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination in the *yjgF* open reading frame; and transitional or transversional mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *yjgF* open reading frame, wherein said modification results in an increased production of L-threonine by said enterobacterium relative to the amount of L-threonine produced in said enterobacterium prior to said mutagenesis; and

wherein, prior to modification, said *yjgF* open reading frame comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

39-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein said enterobacterium is of the species *Escherichia coli*.

42. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein the expression of the *yjgF* open reading frame has been eliminated by the deletion of part of the *yjgF* open reading frame.
43. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-threonine is isolated from said enterobacterium.
44. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein said L-threonine is isolated from said medium.
45. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a batch process.
46. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a fed batch process.
47. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein culturing is performed using a repeated fed batch process.
48. (Previously presented) A process for producing L-threonine, comprising:
a) culturing an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-threonine; and
b) either recovering said L-threonine and determining the amount of said L-threonine recovered or isolating said L-threonine as a product;
wherein the expression of the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium has been eliminated by deletion of all of the *yjgF* open reading frame; and
wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.
49. (Previously presented) The process of claim 48, wherein said *yjgF* open reading frame has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 50-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously presented) The process of claim 48, wherein:

- a) said *yjgF* open reading frame has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- b) said enterobacterium is of the species *E. coli*.

53-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently amended) A process for producing L-threonine comprising:

- a) fermenting an enterobacterium of the genus *Escherichia* in a medium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing said L-threonine; and
- b) recovering said L-threonine and determining the amount of said L-threonine recovered;

wherein the *yjgF* open reading frame of said enterobacterium ~~has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and~~ has undergone ~~a modification~~ inactivation by one or more methods of mutagenesis selected from the group consisting of: deletion of all or part of the *yjgF* open reading frame; insertional mutagenesis due to homologous recombination in the *yjgF* open reading frame; and transitional or transversional mutagenesis with incorporation of a non-sense mutation in the *yjgF* open reading frame, wherein said modification results in an increased production of L-threonine by said enterobacterium relative to the amount of L-threonine produced in said enterobacterium prior to said mutagenesis; and

wherein, prior to modification, said *yjgF* open reading frame comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

56. (Previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein constituents of the fermentation broth and/or the biomass in its entirety or portions thereof remain with the recovered L-threonine of step b).

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently amended) The process of claim 55, wherein said enterobacterium is of the species *E. coli*.
59. (Previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein fermentation is performed using a batch process.
60. (Previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein fermentation is performed using a fed batch process.
61. (Previously presented) The process of claim 55, wherein fermentation is performed using a repeated fed batch process.
62. (Previously presented) The process of claim 48, wherein culturing is performed using a batch process.
63. (Previously presented) The process of claim 48, wherein culturing is performed using a fed batch process.
64. (Previously presented) The process of claim 48, wherein culturing is performed using a repeated fed batch process.